

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Examiner Kackar for his the continued careful examination of the application. Applicant's undersigned counsel also appreciates the indication that claims 1, 3-10 and 24-30 are allowed.

Independent claims 11, 15 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as lacking written-description support or for new matter. With respect to claim 11, the Examiner has stated the limitation "conductive at least in a region thereof" appears to be new matter. This limitation in claim 11 refers to the "frame" as claimed. Respectfully, this feature is disclosed in the application as-filed. For example, the Examiner is respectfully referred to claim 3 as-filed, where the frame is said to be "conductive at least regionally." Please also see the specification, e.g., at p. 6, lines 31-35.

Regarding claims 15 and 20, the Examiner has indicated there is a lack of written-description support for the limitation at step (d) of each of these claims. For clarity, this step has been revised in both claims 15 and 20 to state that "a voltage source is connected between the chuck electrode and the conductive layer of the carrier," as seen above. There is clear basis for this limitation in the specification, e.g. at p. 10, lines 19-32 and p. 20, lines 19-24, which explain that a voltage is applied between the frame (in which the carrier is clamped) and the chuck electrode, the latter reference referring in particular to voltage source 350.

Claims 11, 15 and 20 have also been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite based on the same limitations referenced above. Regarding claim 11, the referenced limitation simply means that the frame is conductive in at least a region of the frame (i.e. not necessarily across the entire frame), which is clear and finds support in the application as mentioned above. Regarding claims 15 and 20, it is believed the foregoing amendment should address the Examiner's concerns and renders the rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 11, 15 and 20, and all claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance. All other claims have already been indicated as allowed. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is requested to please contact the undersigned should there remain any questions or concerns with respect to the subject limitations in claims 11, 15 or 20.

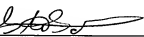
Finally, the Examiner is requested to please initial U.S. Pat. No. 6,238,160 on form PTO-

1449 previously submitted and forward the initialed copy to Applicant with his next communication as requested in the last Amendment.

If there are any fees required by this communication, please charge any such fees to our Deposit Account 16-0820, Order No. KELR-38477.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Steven J. Solomon, Reg. No. 48719

1801 East 9th Street, Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
Phone: (216) 579-1700
Fax: (216) 579-6073

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